

health care and, not surprisingly, he left his indelible mark in this arena as well.

Madam Speaker, at the age of 36, Mayer was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After seeking successful experimental cancer treatments in New York, Mayer vowed that Mobile would one day have its own world-class cancer center.

And today, because of Mayer's vision and generosity—and that of the entire Mitchell family—the University of South Alabama, in alliance with the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, is now home to a state-of-the-art cancer research institute, appropriately named the Mitchell Cancer Institute.

All in all, the Mitchell family holds the distinction of having given more to a single public university than any other family in the history of the state of Alabama.

Without a doubt, Mayer's philanthropy and leadership was legendary and recognized around the country and across the globe. When Mayer's name was on an invitation, a project or a cause, you knew with it came his own personal "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval." And if Mayer was on your side, you never, ever had to go back to him and ask if he was truly committed. Mayer's word was golden.

Mayer Mitchell was awarded the University of South Alabama National Alumni Associations' Distinguished Service Award in 2006. Other honors included: Outstanding Young Men of America; Jewish Welfare Fund Man of the Year; Prichard Honorary Citizen of the Year; Mobile County Realtor of the Year; and high honors from the Boy's Club of Mobile, Bishop State Community College; University of Rochester, New Orleans Chapter of Hadasah, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Mobile Kiwanis Club and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. In 2006, The University of Alabama inducted Mayer into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Clearly, Mayer's involvement was not just at the local and state level, but at the national level as well. He was a longtime political activist and a passionate supporter for Israel. He served on the national board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, for over two decades, serving as president of the board from 1990–1992 and as chairman of the board from 1992–1996. He devoted much time to Camp Ramah Darom, a summer camp for Jewish youth in northeast Georgia, and Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, which awarded him an honorary doctorate.

A graduate from Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance in 1953, Mayer also served in the Army as a first lieutenant in the Korean War, where he earned a commendation ribbon with medal pendant for meritorious service.

Madam Speaker, Psalms 24:2 calls to question, "Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord and who will stand in his place of sanctity? One with clean hands and a pure heart."

Let there be no doubt, Mayer Mitchell's manner and goodness truly lived up to that expectation. And for all who truly knew Mayer—and appreciated him for all he was and all he did—we can all take some comfort in knowing that in life, Mayer definitely made a difference. Even in death, his legacy will last for generations.

More than 60 years ago, a young girl wrote a diary that opened the world's eyes to the

horrors of evil and hatred. Even today, Anne Frank remains an inspiration for her simple eloquence and powerful choice of words.

One of my favorite Anne Frank quotes seems to be a fitting epithet for my dear friend, Mayer. She wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Madam Speaker, Mayer Mitchell did just that. He waited for no one to tell him what needed to be done; he simply went out, in his own special way, and sewed seeds of hope one good deed at a time.

While it is true that the good works of Mayer Mitchell could fill an entire volume in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, on this day when his family and friends mourn his death, I simply ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a good and decent man, Mayer Mitchell. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO MINNIE VAUTRIN,
"AMERICAN GODDESS OF MERCY"

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnie Vautrin, an American woman and missionary whose heroism changed the course of history during World War II.

Japan's violent occupation of then-capital Nanking, China, historically known as the Rape of Nanking, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent Chinese men, women and children and left its mark on history as one of the most brutal massacres and crimes against humanity of the 20th Century. An estimated 300,000 Chinese civilians were killed, and an estimated 20,000 women were raped, with some estimates as high as 80,000.

Minnie Vautrin, a missionary who worked at a women's college in Nanking, courageously stood against the Japanese Imperial Army. A native of Illinois, she was one of the few Americans in the region when the Japanese army invaded Nanking.

By using the American flag and proclamations issued by the American Embassy in China maintaining the college as a sanctuary, Minnie helped repel incursions into the college, where thousands of women and children sought protection from the Japanese army. She often risked her own life to defend the lives of thousands of Chinese civilians.

Her devotion during this horrific event earned her the nickname "American Goddess of Mercy" among the people of Nanking, where she is fondly remembered. Her heroic actions and unparalleled efforts to save lives deserve to be recognized. Sadly, her story is relatively unknown.

Today, on the 121st anniversary of her birth, I would like to honor Ms. Vautrin for her sacrifice, courage, humanity, and commitment to peace and justice during the violent Rape of Nanking. Minnie Vautrin's story defines patriotism and heroism in the midst of war.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me in remembering this phenomenal yet unsung heroine. To the thousands of innocent men, women and children whose lives were spared because of Minnie Vautrin's bold courage, she will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF KATHERINE BROWN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Katherine Brown for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, D.C., office.

When Katie came to Capitol Hill from Galatin, Tennessee, earlier this year, she quickly proved to be an able researcher, a strong writer and a hard worker. While she has been with the office only a short time, her diligence and persistence have helped me do my job better.

But love and law school are now calling her home. Today is her last day in the office as Katie is moving back to Middle Tennessee to be with her fiancé, Taylor, while she prepares for law school.

My staff and I are sad to see her leave, but we share her excitement for this new chapter in her life. Katie, I thank you for all your help, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NABVETS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) and offer my salutation to those members attending their Regional Convention in Denver Colorado this November. NABVETS has representatives in several states across the western United States, including my home state of Colorado. It is with the utmost sincerity that I wish this gathering success in discerning avenues to uphold and meet their organizational mission.

Since its founding in 1969, NABVETS has made great strides in community development and advocacy by providing a myriad of services including empowerment of low-income and minority veterans and historical perseverance.

NABVETS has provided support to Colorado communities over the years, and I am proud to support its continued efforts to assist Colorado's veterans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking them for their efforts, and conveying my best wishes for the convention.

CONGRATULATING MR. GRANT
SIMPSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Grant Simpson, a Hidden Lakes Elementary School teacher in Keller, Texas, for being named Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Simpson was selected from twenty finalists by an eleven member panel of educators, principals and state officials. This is the second consecutive year that a Keller teacher has been recognized.

Mr. Simpson turns his fourth-grade classroom into a comfortable learning environment for his students. He tries to attend numerous student activities such as recitals and football games, and it is not uncommon to see him eating lunch with his students.

Mr. Simpson will receive \$5,000 and a technology package worth \$15,000 for his award. He will be honored at a luncheon November 3, 2007, in Austin, Texas.

I would like to join Mr. Grant Simpson's family and friends in congratulating him on receiving this remarkable award. It is an honor to have such a prestigious teacher in the 26th district of Texas.

CONGRATULATING ALEXIS L.
TAYLOR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miss Alexis L. Taylor of Keller High School in Keller, Texas, for being chosen as a semifinalist in the 44th Annual National Achievement Scholarship Program. It is an honor to have such a qualified student in the 26th District of Texas.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program began in 1964 as a way to provide

scholarships to promising black students. Since 1964, almost 28,000 students have been provided with scholarships totaling more than \$88 million.

Miss Taylor was one of 114 semifinalists from the State of Texas. She was chosen based on her Preliminary SAT scores. Finalists will be chosen based on abilities, achievements, and potential for success. The scholarship winners will be announced in April of 2008.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Miss Alexis L. Taylor and her family for her academic achievements at Keller High School. Her dedication and commitment to her education will lead her to great things. I wish her the best of luck with the remainder of the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

BOROUGH OF MOHNTON IN BERKS
COUNTY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Mohnton in Berks County, Pennsylvania which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. Like many municipalities in the 6th District, the Borough of Mohnton has a rich and proud history that is the foundation for the strength and sense of community that its residents share today.

Mohnton officially became a borough in 1907 when it separated from Cumru Town-

ship. The community was previously known as Mohn's Store, or Mohnsville, in honor of founder Samuel K. Mohn, who opened a store and established a post office in 1857. Within the first year of the Borough's existence, the Mohnton Fire Co. No. 1 was organized, which consisted of a hand-drawn hose cart that was its only means of fighting fires. In 1909, the first Borough's high school graduating class had just four students. Today, the Borough is a part of the Governor Mifflin School District, which proudly boasts over 1400 students in high school alone. Over the years, the Borough has grown into a thriving community that epitomizes good neighbors and civic-mindedness.

As a part of the festivities, the Borough has brought back another proud tradition that dates back a half-century. Back in the 1950s, Mohnton was the local hub of soap-box racing, with fans watching the races along Walnut Street. This tradition was rekindled by the Mohnton Lions Club this past summer and it was a great event for young and old alike.

This weekend's celebrations will include a Centennial Parade around the Northridge section of the community, followed by string bands, fireworks and other great musical performances.

I congratulate Mayor Richard Trostle and all of the other dedicated organizing members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this celebration so successful. I know all my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Borough of Mohnton and all its residents for 100 years of family, faith and tradition and we wish them another 100 years of community energy, vitality and success.